

REMARKS

Applicant's attorney would like to thank Examiners Cole and Wachtel for the courtesies extended during the interview of October 9, 2002.

Claims 53-59, 61-67, and 70-73 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of June 20, 2002, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed.

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 52 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing new matter.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 52 has been cancelled in favor of new claim 70. It is believed that there is support for claim 70 in the specification as filed, namely, the embodiment shown in Figure 2.

Claims 52-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 52 has been replaced by new claim 70. It is believed that claims 52-59, which now depend from claim 70, clearly define the invention. Claims 60, 68 and 69 have also been rewritten as new claims 71-73, respectively. It is believed that these new claims, which describe the embodiments shown in Figure 3A and 3B, clearly describe the invention.

Art Rejections

Claims 60-67 and 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oellerking in view of Christensen et al. The Examiner concedes that Oellerking does not teach incorporating auxiliary fixing means into the fixing portion. Christensen is said to teach that providing auxiliary fixing means such as stitching in the portion of a welding fabric outside of the welded portion enhances the overall strength of the bond.

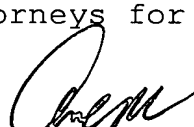
This rejection is respectfully traversed. The present invention provides a composite material in which a welding fabric is welded to a first substrate, wherein the welding fabric comprises a welding portion and a fixing portion. The fixing portion is provided with auxiliary fixing means, and a second substrate to which the material is fixed by the auxiliary fixing means. In

the present invention, the auxiliary fixing means is separate from the welding portion. In Christensen, the stitching (i.e., the auxiliary fixing means), is to enhance the weld between two fabrics, rather than as an auxiliary to fix the welding fabric composite to a second substrate. Thus, there is no motivation in Christensen to include auxiliary fixing means that permit attachment of the welding fabric plus first substrate to a second substrate.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly Respectfully submitted,

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53. (Amended) The composite material according to claim ~~52-70~~ wherein the second substrate is selected from the group consisting of columns, stakes, logs, buildings, footings, and sheets.

54. (Amended) The composite material according to claim ~~52-70~~ wherein the first substrate is a cloth or synthetic resin sheet.

55. (Amended) The composite material according to claim ~~52-70~~ wherein the welding portion extends across the entire width of the welding fabric.

56. (Amended) The composite material according to claim ~~52-70~~ wherein the welding portion extends across part of the width of the welding fabric.

57. (Amended) The composite material according to claim ~~52-70~~ wherein the welding portion comprises a warp coated with a thermoplastic material.

58. (Amended) The composite material according to claim ~~52-70~~ wherein the welding portion is at each end of said welding fabric.

59. (Amended) The composite material according to claim ~~52~~-70 wherein the welding portion is in the middle portion of said fabric.

61. (Amended) The composite material according to claim ~~60~~-71 wherein said second substrate is selected from the group consisting of columns, stakes, logs, building, footings, and sheets.

62. (Amended) The composite material according to claim ~~60~~-71 wherein said first substrate is a cloth or synthetic resin sheet.

63. (Amended) The composite material according to claim ~~60~~-71 wherein the welding portion extends across the entire width of the first welding fabric.

64. (Amended) The composite material according to claim ~~60~~-71 wherein the welding portion extends across part of the width of the first welding fabric.

65. (Amended) The composite material according to claim ~~60~~-71 wherein the welding portion comprises a warp coated with a thermoplastic material.

66. (Amended) The composite material according to claim ~~60~~71 wherein the first welding portion is at each end of the welding fabric.

67. (Amended) The composite material according to claim ~~60~~71 wherein the welding portion is in the middle portion of the first welding fabric.